AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1   1.   (Original) A method of installing software in a system, comprising:

2   during an installation procedure, providing a user prompt to request entry of a key;

3   determining whether an entered key is proper;

4   in response to determining that the entered key is proper, installing the software in the

5   system and storing the entered key; and

6   in response to determining that the entered key is not proper, installing the software in the

7   system and enabling activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later time.

1   2.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   executing the first code; and

3   during execution of the first code, providing another prompt for entry of a second key.

1   3.   (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:

2   determining, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and

3   not executing the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.

1   4.   (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising storing the second key in a registry

2   in response to the second key being proper.

1   5.   (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein executing the first code is performed during a

2   startup procedure of the system.

1   6.   (Original) The method of claim 5, further comprising:

2   during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a second key.

1   7.   (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising:

2   determining whether the second key is proper; and

3   stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the second

4   key is not proper.

1   8.   (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

2   during execution of the installed software, providing a prompt for entry of a second key;

3   determining whether the second key is proper; and

4   stopping execution of the installed software in response to determining that the second key is not

5   proper.

1   9.   (Original) A system comprising:

2   a processor; and

3   a storage containing installation code for operating software executable by the processor,

4   the installation code when executed to cause the processor to:

5   provide a prompt to request entry of a first key;

6   determine whether the first key is proper;

7   in response to determining that the first key is proper, install the operating

8   software and store the first key in the storage; and

9   in response to determining that the first key is not proper, install the operating

10   software and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of a key at a later time.

1   10.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the first code comprises startup code executed

2   during a startup procedure of the system.

1   11.   (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein execution of the first code causes the

2   processor to:

3   provide another prompt for entry of a second key; and

4   determine whether the second key is proper.

1   12.   (Original) The system of claim 11, wherein execution of the first code causes the

2   processor to further:

3   in response to determining that the second key is proper, enable execution of the

4   operating software and store the second key in the storage; and

5   in response to determining that the second key is not proper, not execute the operating

6   software.

1   13.   (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first code is part of the operating

2   software.

1   14.   (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first code is part of startup code

2   executable during a startup procedure of the system.

1   15.   (Currently Amended) The system of claim 9, wherein the storage ~~to store~~ contains a

2   registry to store ~~containing~~ the first key ~~stored~~ in response to determining that the first key ~~being~~

3   is proper.

1   16.   (Currently Amended) An article comprising at least one storage medium containing

2   instructions that when executed ~~causing~~ cause a system to:

3   during an installation procedure, provide a user prompt to request entry of a key;

4   determine whether an entered key is proper;

5   in response to ~~determine~~ determining that the entered key is proper, install the software in

6   the system and store the entered key; and

7   in response to ~~determine~~ determining that the entered key is not proper, install the

8   software in the system and enable activation of first code to prompt for entry of the key at a later

9   time.

1   17.   (Original) The article of claim 16, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2   system to further:

3   execute the first code; and

4   during execution of the first code, provide another prompt for entry of a second key.

1   18.   (Original) The article of claim 17, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2   system to further:

3   determine, by the first code, whether the second key is proper; and

4   not execute the installed software in response to the second key not being proper.

1   19.   (Original) The article of claim 18, wherein executing the first code is performed during a

2   startup procedure of the system.

1   20.   (Original) The article of claim 19, wherein the instructions when executed cause the

2   system to further:

3   during execution of the installed software, provide a prompt of another key in response to

4   the entered key and the second key not being proper.